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Addendum

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1. Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW)

(Special Consultative Status granted: 1988)

PART I.

The Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW) / l'Institut canadien de recherches sur les femmes (ICREF) is a national organization which functions in Canada's two official languages, French and English, with members in all provinces and territories. CRIAW receives the majority of its funding from Status of Women Canada, with an annual budget of $300,000. Its mandate is to build bridges between community-based and university-based research and to make the links between research, action and social change. The organization's work is guided by the Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

CRIAW has been instrumental in anchoring much of the "Beijing" related work for women's NGOs in Canada. Since receiving consultative status in 1998, CRIAW has anchored the work of the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA)/ l'Alliance canadienne féministe pour l'action internationale (AFAI). Part of the Alliance's mandate is to "facilitate the ability of Canadian women's NGOs to intervene effectively at the United Nations and other international fora; increase the capacity of women in Canada to make links between international instruments and agreements and domestic policy-making," and lastly, to "hold our governments (federal, provincial and territorial) accountable to the international commitments and obligations signed by Canada" (FAFIA/AFAI). CRIAW served as the Secretariat for the Canadian FAFIA until June of 2005.

As an organization for whom feminist research is at the core of its activities, CRIAW has continued to weave the work of various United Nations bodies into its work. In our increasingly globalized world it is essential that national organizations such as ours be connected to the wider movements of NGOs. Participating in the United Nations meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women has to a great extent allowed this.

PART II. Contribution of the Organization to the Work of the United Nations

A CRIAW representative has attended all of the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) within the above-mentioned reporting period (2002-2005). Please see below for detailed information:

2002

- Attended the 46th Session of the commission on the Status of Women held in New-York from March 4th to 15th.

2003

- Attended the 47th Session of the commission on the Status of Women held in New-York from March 3rd to 14th.

2004

- Attended the 48th Session of the commission on the Status of Women held in New-York from March 1st to 12th.

2005

- Attended the Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcome Document of the 23rd Special Session of the General; Assembly between the 28th of February and the 11th of March.
- Within the context of the Beijing + 10 Session, CRIAW organized a workshop at the Church Center in New-York on March 7th. The workshop was on intersectionality in collaboration with the Women's International Coalition for Social and Economic Justice (WICEJ) of which we are a member.

Articles of the CSW, Beijing +10, and CEDAW have been included in our national newsletter which is produced twice a year in French and English and distributed to approximately 500 members which are both individuals and institutions.

In support of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, more specifically goal number 3, *Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women,* CRIAW has focused its research and activities on issues linked to economic and social justice: overcoming women's poverty and exclusion. Within this reporting period CRIAW has produced the following fact sheets:

- Women's Experience of Racism: How race and gender interact (published in 2002)
- Immigrant and Refugee women (published in 2003)
- Women, Peace and Security (published in 2004)

We have also organized in Ottawa, Canada a national Think Tank on Women's Economic Security (April 2005) and another on Intersectionality (June 2005).

In collaboration with the Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre, CRIAW hosted the 9th International Women and Health Meeting (IWHM)/9e Rencontre internationale sur les femmes et la santé (RIFS), from August 12th to 16th in Toronto, Canada. In the context of globalization, the conference offered a timely opportunity for women from all over the world to share their ideas and strategies. The forum focused on **sexual and reproductive rights, violence against women (state and family),** and **environmental health**.

CRIAW continues to be a member of the Canadian Gender and Peace Building Working Group which consists of both Parliamentarians and NGO representatives.

Finally, CRIAW contributed to Canada's NGO report (shadow report) to the Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women which was presented by Canadian Feminist Alliance For International Action in New-York at the Committee's 28th Session which was held between January 13th and 31st, 2003. The Committee's recommendations have been integrated in a number of our research documents.

As an organization, CRIAW firmly supports the United Nations and its various bodies and mechanisms. In order for these to have greater impact the organization believes it important that United Nations documents be taken out of their organization specific jargon and made more accessible in both language and format. CRIAW has attempted to do this within its limits since 1998 and will continue to do so in the years to come. Having special consultative status has allowed the organization to participate in a number of United Nations events and meetings. This in turn has informed the work of the organization and has provided a global perspective on a number of issues linked to women's equality.

2. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (DST)

(Special Consultative Status granted in 2002)

PART I. Introduction

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programmes in local communities throughout the world. A sisterhood of more than 200,000 predominately African American college educated women, the Sorority has over 900 chapters located throughout the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the Republic of Korea.

The major programmes of the Sorority are based upon the organization's Five Point Programmatic Thrust, namely: economic development; educational development, international awareness and involvement; physical and mental health; and political awareness and involvement.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

2002: On May 1, 2002, the Economic and Social Council gave final approval to the granting of Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Recognizing that gender equality is one of the founding principles of the United Nations, and a centerpiece of the international framework for human rights, the Sorority decided to begin its involvement at ECOSOC by focusing priority attention on the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), and on meeting and networking with women from around the world in support of the Commission's activities. Each subsequent year following its accreditation, the Sorority has organized and sponsored a Delta Day at the United Nations to address issues pertaining to women and development.

2003: Over one hundred and fifty members of the Sorority attended the inaugural Delta Day at the United Nations on March 27, 2003 at United Nations Headquarters, which included a special orientation on the working of the United Nations, as well as briefings on the Elimination of violence against women, Global advancement of women, the State of the World's Children, Gender equity in policy development and the importance of Sustaining health and wellness into old age. The group was addressed by the Chief of the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Assistant-Secretary General for External Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Chief NGO Officer of the United States Office for Children, the United Nations Focal Point on Ageing, and a representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. During this period, the organization expanded its knowledge on the working methods of the United Nations system and developed working relationships with other non-governmental organizations.

2004: Since 2004, the Sorority's annual Delta Day at the United Nations has been organized to coincide with the annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women. On March 4, 2004, during the 48th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1-12 March 2004, the Sorority organized a Workshop on the Role of Men and Women in the Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS. The Workshop heard presentations by the Director, UNAIDS Office in New York Office, the President/CEO, National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS; the Chef de Cabinet to the President of the General Assembly and the President, the Foundation for Democracy in Africa. In addition, on International Women's Day, March 8, 2004, the Sorority held a Caucus to review and examine the role that NGOs play in supporting the work of the CSW. The Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women addressed the Caucus. The Sorority also submitted a written statement to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session, discussing its leadership role in educating the global community on how to decrease the AIDS pandemic and describing its Summit V: Health and Healing initiative which entails conducting HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programmes. E/CN.6/2004/NGO19

2005: On March 4, 2005, during the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at United Nations Headquarters, New York from 28 February to 11 March 2005, the Sorority organized a Panel on Effective Techniques for Improved Government Relations at the United Nations. The Panel was addressed by the President of the National Council of Women and NGO Representative to the United Nations for the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs; the former Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and Board Member of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO); and the Main NGO Representative to the United Nations for the National Council of Negro Women and Chair of the 2004 Department of Public Information NGO Annual Conference. The Assistant-Secretary General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women addressed the members and a briefing was held with the United States Ambassador to the United Nations. On March 5, 2005, as part of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women's observance of the Forty-Ninth Session of the CSW, the Sorority organized a spoken word fair at which several

authors shared their poetry and books pertaining to women and international development and engaged in a dialogue with the audience. In addition, the Sorority submitted a written statement to the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, describing some of the key issues with which the organizations was engaged. These included education and training sessions, and other community events in partnership with other concerned organizations in the United States to support reauthorization of key provisions of the United States Voting Rights Act, and launching of the Delta health insurance education and advocacy programme designed to educate communities about health care disparities and challenges faced by African American women.. E/CN.6/2005/NGO/13.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

While the sorority has had a long history of international awareness and involvement, accreditation as a non-governmental organization sparked new innovations and a heightened international focus within the organization. During the period under review the Sorority's representatives held discussions with members of several United Nations missions and a number of other senior officers within the United Nations system, including representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to explore avenues for further cooperation. The Sorority raised funds to contribute to the Maama kit initiative for safe birthing sponsored by WHO, aimed at preventing transmission of postpartum infection.

Each year, several of the Sorority's chapters participated in events to celebrate United Nations Day on October 24th and to disseminate information on the activities of the United Nations system to its members and the general public, including on college campuses throughout the United States. In so doing, it collaborated with organizations such as the National Pan Hellenic Council, which represents a membership of Greek letter organizations of over one million persons.

As part of Delta's long-standing international awareness and involvement activities, support was provided to the Southern African region, and included the building of "The Delta House" orphanage in the Kingdom of Swaziland, the establishment of the Delta Computer Training Center in the Kingdom of Lesotho, and the adoption of selected schools in the Republic of South Africa.

The Sorority maintained its membership in the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women and its accreditation to the United Nations Department of Public Information. The Sorority also collaborated with other concerned organizations to urge ratification by the government of the United States of America of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Sorority will continue to take part in intergovernmental fora to advance the work of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the United Nations in general to forward achievement of the United Nations goals, in particular the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

3. Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation

(Special Consultative Status granted in 2002)

PART I. Introduction

i. the aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action

Marmara Foundation is a Turkish non-governmental organization (NGO), operating in Istanbul since 1985. For two decades, Marmara Foundation has had the privilege to work with academicians, parliamentarians, statesmen, businessmen, experts in their fields in its Academic Council member group.

As an NGO widely recognized by numerous segments in Turkey, Marmara Foundation aims to raise awareness to crucial issues through its meetings, conferences and events in Turkey and abroad. The major objective of the Marmara Foundation is to encourage social, economic and political cooperation to promote human focused development.

The foundation aims to promote mutual understanding and dialogue between cultures, religions, civil societies and governments, and encourages social, economical, and political cooperation among neighboring countries to reach sustainable peaceful, stable conditions. Marmara Foundation represents Turkey in the economic and Social Council of the United Nations in special consultative status. In addition, Marmara Foundation is accredited with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and member of he Balkan Political through its president. The Marmara Foundation has won in years 2004 and 2005 "The NGO of the year" award following joint decision by the TUSIAV (Turkish Industrialists Businessmen Foundation) and ATO (Ankara Chamber of Commerce).

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i). Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

1. "Economic and Social Council, Substantive Session of 2003", 30 June – 4 July 2003, United Nations office at Geneva. The organization's representative attended the meeting.

2. "Economic and Social Council, Preparatory Meeting", 17 February 2004, United Nations Headquarters, New York. The organization's representative attended the meeting.

3. "48th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women", 1-12 March 2004, United Nations Headquarters, New York. The organization's representative attended the meeting.

4. "Economic and Social Council, Preparatory Meeting", 17 – 18 March 2004, United Nations Headquarters, New York. The organization's representative attended the meeting.

5. "Economic and Social Council, Preparatory Meeting", 28 – 30 June 2004, United Nations Headquarters, New York. The organization's representative attended the meeting.

6. "Economic and Social Council, Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting", 28 February-4 March 2005, United Nations Headquarters, New York. The organization's representative attended the meeting.

7. "13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development", 11 -22 April 2005, United Nations Headquarters, New York. The organization's representative attended the meeting.

8. "4th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues", 16 -27 May 2005, United Nations Headquarters, New York. The organization's representative attended the meeting.

9. "58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference – Our Challenge: Voice for Peace, Partnership and Renewal ", 7-9 September 2005, United Nations Headquarters, New York. The organization's representative attended the meeting.

10. "United Nations High Level Consultation and Workshop on Capacity Building for the Informal NGO Regional Network in Bursa", 28-30 September 2005, Istanbul, Turkey. The organization's representatives attended the meeting.

ii). Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

- Workshop titled " Strategies Concerning the Economic Development of Women in the Southeastern Anatolia" in collaboration with UNDP and Southeastern Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration in Mardin, Turkey, 29-30 September 2005.

- Participation to the various elections in Ukraine, Georgia, Germany, Belarus, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan as an observer NGO under the coordination of the United Nations.

iii). Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals

ACTIVITIES IN LINE WITH THE MILLENNIUM GOALS

The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the geographical regions of mainly Asia and Europe.

Goal 3. Promote gender equality & empower women

- Target : Eliminate gender disparity in education

ACTIONS

- Vocational training of 120 young unemployed people ,mainly female
- "Eurasian Women Managers Forum" in Istanbul, Turkey , 2 November 2000 with 300 participants from 17 countries discussing the measures to be taken to increase the number of women in decision making process
- "World Women Managers Forum", in İstanbul, Turkey, 8-9 November 2002 With participants from 400 participants from 30 countries, discussing poverty, corruption, social responsibility and terrorism and their effects on women
- "Strategies Concerning the Economic Development of Women in the Southeastern Anatolia" two days workshop in collaboration with UNDP and Southeastern Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration in Mardin, Turkey, 29-30 September 2005.
- "Economic Development and Women Employment", Istanbul, Turkey, 7 July 2005. The role of women in the economic development was discussed with participants from 32 different countries.

Goal 5. Improve maternal health

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria & other diseases

ACTIONS

- Monthly informative seminars given to 40 women belonging to lower socio-economic segment of the society on issues of health, birth control

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

- Target : Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

ACTIONS

- "3rd Mediterranean Regional Dialogue of Parliamentarians, NGOs and other Stakeholders on the protection of the Mediterranean Environment and prospects for the Sustainable Development of the Region", Istanbul, Turkey, 12-13 October 2004. The policy makers, NGO representatives, from 12 Mediterranean countries are brought together to discuss Integrated Water Resource Management principles.

Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development

ACTIONS

- "Eurasian Economic Summits", annual summits starting from 1998, with the ministerial level participants from 32 countries to encourage developing social economic and political cooperation.
- "Peace and Love Iftar Dinners", annual meetings to which religious leaders from various religions attend and intercultural dialogue is encouraged.
- Regular meetings with NGO representatives, politicians, journalists, academicians both from Turkey and abroad to strengthen civil society dialogue.
- Founder and member of various networks such as Armenian –Turkish Women, (NATW), Solidarity and friendship group with Azerbaijani Women, Women's Initiative for Peace Group (WINPEACE) with Greek Women to strengthen civil society dialogue.

4. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas/Hermanas de la Misericordia de Las Americas

(Special Consultative Status granted in 1998)

1. Aims and purposes of the organisation

The Sisters of Mercy are an international faith-based organisation founded in Dublin, Ireland in 1831 committed to serving those who suffer from poverty, degradation and all forms of disadvantage, which affect poor and vulnerable people today. We focus in particular on how poverty in all its forms impacts the lives of women and children. This report attempts to serve as a record of the organisation's attempts exercising its consultative status and engagement in major UN processes and with regular activities of substantive Commissions and other bodies. At the same time it illustrates the ways in which we have built up collaborative relationships with other Civil Society organisations (CSOs) over the period, with a view to using opportunities for UN engagement more effectively.

1.1 **Contribution of the Organization to the work of the United Nations. Members have taken part or been involved in the following meetings held at United Nations in New York:**

41st Session Commission on Social Development 10-21 February 2003:
E/CN.5/2003/NGO –Forging partnerships for Social Development; **E/CN.5/2003/NGO/2** Social Responsibility of the private sector; **E/CN.5/2003/NGO/10** International financial institutions and their effects on national and social development strategies. **E/CN.5/2003/NGO/11** Forging National and International cooperation for Social Development, sharing of expertise. **E/CN.5/2003/NGO/12** Impact of employment strategies on Social Development.

42nd 4-13 February 2004; Improving public sector awareness; **E./CN.6/2004/NGO/7** Focus on the International Year of the Family and equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities.

43rd Session 9 –18 February 2005; **E/CN.5/2005/NGO/3** Review of Social Summit and 24th Special Session of the General Assembly- **youth participation; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/5,** review of World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of General Assembly – **HIV/AIDS pandemic; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/6** review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the 24th Special Session of the General Assembly **Eradication of Poverty; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/8,** review of the further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the 24th Special Session of the General Assembly **structural adjustments; E/CN.52005/NGO/9,** review of World Summit for Social development and the outcome of the 24th Special Session of the General Assembly **management of financial resources; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/10,** review of further Special Session of the General Assembly **Education as the key to social development. E/CN.5/2005/NGO/11** review of the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the 24th Special Session of the General Assembly – **equality and equity of men and women; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/12** Review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the 24th Special Session of the General Assembly **stable employment and decent work.**

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Sisters of Mercy participated annually in the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women. Our members were active in both sending and receiving countries of persons who had been trafficked and in all initiatives to prevent violence against women. We were active in supporting statements and attending side-events at the Commission.

48th Session 1-12 March 2004: **E/CN.6/2004/NGO/13** – Role of Men and Boys in achieving gender equality. Sisters of Mercy also monitored and attended several sessions of Commission to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 13- 31 January 2003; 30 June – 15 July 2004 and 4- 22 July 2005.

49th Session 8 – February –11 March 2005: **E.CN.6/2005/NGO/1** –Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives; **E/CN.6/2005NGO/4** –review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations System; **E/CN.6/2005NGO/23** –Current challenges and forward looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls.

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

Sisters of Mercy are committed to the Care of the Earth and the principles of Agenda 21. We were actively engaged in Education for Sustainable Development and administered programmes and initiatives promoting Sustainable Living throughout the Mercy World. For example www.sistersofmercy.org.nz/auckland/offer_earth.html or www Mercy.org.au/orgs/earthlink.

Members participated in the following Session of CSD:

CSD 11 28 April – 9 May 2003; CSD 12 Review Session 14-30 April 2004; CSD 13 Policy Session 11-22 April 2005; CSD 14 Review Session 1-12 May 2006

2:1 **NGO activities related to major United Nations conferences**

During PrepComs for major conferences the organisation's representatives worked on issue and regional caucuses, assisted in drafting caucus statements for plenary sessions and chaired NGO briefing and strategy sessions. The Director worked closely with United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

We also worked closely with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and provided major donations related to work on trafficking and children.

- The organisation's representatives joined the international Ecumenical Teams and were part of the Conference on World Religions held in Barcelona, Spain 2004. The Director is a member of the Financing for Development working group, the Commission on the Status of Women working group; the Working group on Israel-Palestine; the HIV and AIDS working group; the working group on Migration. Along with NGLS and for the annual Commission on Social Development we worked in partnership with other NGOs, to facilitate the Civil Society orientation programs.

Participation in Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) in Committees and other relevant NGO Groups

- NGO Committee on the Status of Women – membership throughout the period.
- NGO Committee on Social Development – membership throughout the period.
- NGO Committee on Sustainable Development – membership Jan 2000 – present.
- NGO Committee on HIV/AIDS – membership since its beginnings in 2003 – to present.

Examples of other United Nations interaction:

- Regular representation at weekly Department of Public Information briefings and strong representation at DPI/NGO Conferences; Membership in UNEP's Interfaith Partnership on the Environment, including contribution to publication, 'Earth and Faith: a Book of Reflection for Action'.
- Director of UNIFEM is a member of the Mercy Global Concern Advisory Board and an active advisee to the Sisters of Mercy.
- We hold an annual international meeting at the United Nations called: ***Bridging the Gap between Policy and Practice.*** The focus of the meeting is to educate membership on how the United Nations works and our meetings are run to coincide with the annual Department of Public Information conference.

Examples of how we have become involved with the Millennium Development Goals:

- **Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty**: The Sisters of Mercy in support of the internationally agreed development goals which now form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st century focused a great deal of effort during the reporting period on initiatives to educate membership, to advocate and participate in UN related activities Global Concern.
- **Goal 2: Achieve Universal Education:** As educators for the past 175 years working in 43 countries we continued to work for the promotion of this goal.
- **Goal 3: Promote Gender equality and Empower Women:** This goal has been our focus since 1831. We have worked all over the globe through education and by providing opportunities to both enhance the chances of women and to challenge cultural systems which keep women poor.
- **Goal 4: Reduce Child mortality:** An example of this is the work of the Sisters of Mercy, especially sisters working in sub-Saharan Africa in clinics with HIV/AIDS orphans in Nairobi, Kenya.
- **Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health:** As part of our engagement with this goal we have clinics in Papua New Guinea, Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, Belize and Kenya which facilitates treating women with fistula.
- **Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS:** An example of the work of the Sisters of Mercy in combating HIV/AIDS and promoting goal number 6 is the ***Sister to Sister Project*** a programme working in partnership with indigenous populations. The programme provides education, and challenges systems designed to keep women dependent and unable to break free of cultural norms.
- **Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability:** Through education for sustainability and ecological projects we work towards goal 7.
- **Goal 8: Develop Global Partnerships:** We have developed partnerships as a way forward-within the United Nations by funding United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Women's Fund (UNIFEM).

5. World Federation of Trade Unions in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (WFTU)

(General Consultative Status granted in 1946)

PART I. Introduction

i. Aims and purposes of the organization.

The WFTU was founded on October 3, 1945, closely followed the San Francisco Conference which created the United Nations Organisation (UNO). It was established in the wake of the Second World War to bring together trade unions across the world in a single international organization, much like the United Nations. The basic aim of the First World Trade Union Congress was nothing other than the objectives quoted above from the UN Charter. The U. N. Charter adopted in San Francisco on 26 June 1945 declared:

"We the people of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, and for these ends to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims."

The U. N. Charter spoke in the name of "We the peoples of the United Nations". The Paris Congress of WFTU spoke in the name of the working people of the world organised in trade unions who wanted a world free from war and social injustices. The WFTU recently moved its headquarters from Prague, Czech Republic to Athens, Greece. Office location Athens Greece, website www.wftucentral.org and emails info@wftucentral.org and gensec@wftucentral.org. Along with this physical transition period, a new set of officers were recently elected at its recent Congress which took place in Havana, Cuba. The WFTU focuses on organizing regional federations of unions, campaigning against imperialism, racism, poverty, environmental degradation and exploitation of workers under capitalism and in defense of full employment, social security, health protection, and trade union rights. Our basic principles and values are found in the key-words : analysis, action, unity, struggle, democracy, solidarity, independence, co-ordination.

- Analysis of current reality and action for the demands of Working Class. Struggle for the worker's rights.

- Unity of all workers towards monopolies and Imperialists. For peace and progress.

- Solidarity with the people suffering threats and attacks from USA and their allies. All peoples to have the right to self-determination.

- Right to education and training, to free health for all children of the working class without discriminations and class barriers. Equal rights for men and women.

- Criticism, self-criticism, collectiveness, democratic freedoms and trade-union rights. Transparent proceedings.

- Independence of International Organizations from the USA bondage. Independence of International Trade Union Organizations from the capital.

- Co-ordination of all militant Trade Unions, no matter what their differences are, in order to repulse capital's attack against social security, full and stable work, privatizations, environmental pollution, quality of life.

- Confidence in the workers role for a world free from exploitation, wars, poverty, children's prostitution and exploitation. With about 145 affiliated trade unions representing 71 countries

of the world, WFTU is a world trade union organization struggling for the benefit of world working class. As part of its efforts to advance its international agenda, the WFTU develops working partnerships with national and industrial trade unions worldwide as well as with a number of international and regional trade union organizations.

The WFTU holds consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the ILO, UNESCO, FAO, and other UN agencies. It maintains permanent missions in New York, Geneva, and Rome.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the UN

i) Participation in the work of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other UN meetings:

1. The World Summit on the information society (Geneva December 10-12, 2003). WFTU Permanent Representative in the UN Ramon Cardona and two more delegates had participated to in all prepcoms and in the First Phase of the WSIS in Geneva and the declaration and action plan of Phase One were distributed to our affiliates and published to our website www.wftucentral.org.

2. 58th – 61th sessions of the Commission of Human Rights (CHR), Geneva 2002 –2005. WFTU participated every year to the Commission and organized briefings and consultations. The WFTU permanent representative to the UN delivers every year a written statement (CHR 61st 2/17/2005, E/CN.4/2005/NGO/119 - CHR 60th 2/11/2004, E/CN.4/2004/NGO/18 - CHR 59th 3/12/2003, E/CN.4/2003/NGO/129) distributed to all our affiliates and friends and published to our website www.wftucentral.org.

3. The organization's permanent representative to UN has participated to the Conference on Disarmament (Session 2005) in Geneva Switzerland in all plenary sessions and issued communication which was circulated to the Conference (document CD/NGC/39). The representative was involved in improvement and effective functioning of the Conference and he circulated communications related to peace, security and disarmament issues featured in the organization's website and distributed in our affiliates and friends in English, French, Arab and Spanish.

4. The WFTU has participated to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 21 February – 11 March 2005 in Geneva. Our representative delivered a statement and published an article on a European trade union bulletin. He also organized a round table discussion at the headquarters of the organization's European regional office with the participation of trade union delegates from 14 African countries.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

1. UNCTAD XI (Bresil, June 2004) The programme responsible has participated at the Civil Society Forum and the Civil Society Hearings of the UNCTAD Board and delivered a statement on the follow-up to commitments taken at major UN Conferences.

2. WFTU has been invited and attended the 57th and 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference in New York.

3. On June 23-25, 2005, WFTU attended the Special General Assembly Session chaired by the then General Assembly President Jean Ping which focused on the Millennium Development Goals of the UN and the informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector (June 2005).

iii. Initiatives undertaken by the WFTU in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals:

1. Seminar on "Empower working women and eliminate gender disparity at work", March 2005, San Sebastian Spain and was attended by 50 participants representing national and regional NGOs from 4 countries.

2. On the occasion of International Food Day – International Day against poverty, (October 16, 2005), WFTU organized a meeting with representatives of immigrants from Balkan area and Africa under the title "NGOs Partnerships for the MDGs: the abolition of hunger and poverty demands a different world with peace and justice" in order to raise the awareness of Balkan and African NGOs about the MDGs and to assess their contribution to the Goal's implementation.

3. Regional AIDS/HIV prevention lectures for NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe (Athens, December 2004) With the support of Hellenic Association for the Study and Control of AIDS, WFTU organized lectures attended by 120 participants and focussed on initiatives of preventive character and research, moral and social support and cooperation with neighbour countries.

iv) Activities in support of global principles

1. The WFTU permanent representatives in UN in Geneva Office, participated regularly at conferences and round-tables on UN related issues and civil society.

2. WFTU specialists have several lectures on UN – civil society relations, UN human rights mechanisms and NGOs , the contributions of NGOs to the democratization of global governance etc.

3. In the central offices of WFTU headquarters exist recent and past publications of UN in various topics in many languages with free access to students and workers.

4. On the framework of UNCTAD XI, in Sao Paulo Brazil (June 2004) the WFTU along with local and national NGOs organized a panel to discuss the question of environment and sensibilisation of workers in the major issue of environment protection with the participation of 8 countries of South America. A special poster was also published.

5. The third Conference on the topic of preventing labor accidents in workplaces was organized by the WFTU European Regional Office with the support of Asia Pacific Regional Office and main speakers from Australia on the occasion of Athens Olympic Games 2004. The second Conference was held in Sydney on 2000 and the next will be in China. 350 workers in Olympic site with various specialties have participated.